

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

Claims 21-27 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Horiuchi et al (JP 10-146273) (US patent 6,184,621 being used as translation).

Claims 5 and 7-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horiuchi et al (JP 10-146273) (US patent 6,184,621 being used as translation).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 15 and 16 have been amended and claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

Thus, claims 1 and 3-20 are pending and under consideration, and claims 21-27 are withdrawn from consideration.

Reconsideration is requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112:

At page 2, claims 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In view of the rejection, claim 15 has been amended for clarity to read: "...the black barrier ribs [has] have a [transmissivity] transmission per unit length of 10 %/ 10 µm or less to visible light." In similar fashion, claim 16 has been amended to read: " ...the dielectric layer has a reflectance per unit length of 50 % / 10 µm or more."

Thus, claim 15 and 16 are now believed to be clear and in form to be allowed under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

In the Office Action at pages 2-3, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102 in view of Horiuchi et al. (JP 10-146273) (U.S. patent 6,184,621 used as translation).

This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

It is respectfully submitted that Horiuchi et al. teaches a plasma display, and method for manufacturing the same, in which a dielectric layer and strip-shaped barrier ribs are formed on a

substrate, wherein there are inclined regions at the lengthwise direction ends of the barrier ribs and the height (Y) of the inclined regions and the length (X) of the base of the inclined regions are within the range $0.5 \leq X/Y \leq 100$ (see col. 2, lines 9-46 and col. 4, lines 17-20), but fails to teach utilizing a dielectric layer formed of a base material and a filler, the dielectric layer having a dielectric constant with a smaller dielectric constant ≤ 10 and a larger reflectance than a layer formed of the base material but not containing the filler, as recited, for example, in claim 1.

Horiuchi et al. mentions the term "dielectric coefficient" only twice in the patent, and then only in connection with the barrier rib glass material (col. 15, lines 34-44): "From the point of view of outstanding panel power consumption and discharge life, it is preferred that **the dielectric constant of the barrier rib glass material** be from 4 to 10 at a frequency of 1 MHz and a temperature of 20°C. In order for the value to be less than 4, considerable silicon oxide of dielectric constant about 3.8 has to be included, so the glass transition point is increased and the firing temperature raised, leading to substrate strain, so this is undesirable. If it is more than 10, power loss is produced due to an increase in the amount of static, so there is an increase in power consumption, which is undesirable. (emphasis added)" The relative dielectric constant of the dielectric layer is not discussed by Horiuchi et al. Thus, Horiuchi et al. teaches utilizing a barrier rib glass material having a dielectric constant from 4-10, but fails to teach that a dielectric layer is formed of a mixture of a base material and a filler having a smaller relative dielectric constant than the base material, and the dielectric layer has a smaller relative dielectric constant ≤ 10 and a larger reflectance than a layer formed of the base material but not containing the filler, recited, for example, in claim 1.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Horiuchi et al. (JP 10-146273) (U.S. patent 6,184,621 used as translation).

Since claims 2-4 depend from claim 1, claims 2-4 are submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Horiuchi et al. (JP 10-146273) (U.S. patent 6,184,621 used as translation).

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

In the Office Action at pages 3-5, the Examiner rejected claims 5 and 7-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of Horiuchi et al. (JP 10-146273) (U.S. patent 6,184,621 used as translation).

The rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

As is noted above, it is respectfully submitted that Horiuchi et al. does not teach or suggest that the dielectric layer is formed of a mixture of a base material and a filler having a smaller relative dielectric constant than the base material, and the dielectric layer has a smaller relative dielectric constant ≤ 10 and a larger reflectance than a layer formed of the base material but not containing the filler.

Thus, claim 1 of the present claimed invention is believed to be non-obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of Horiuchi et al. (JP 10-146273) (U.S. patent 6,184,621 used as translation). Since claim 1 is believed to be non-obvious and claim 5 depends from claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 5 is also non-obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of Horiuchi et al. (JP 10-146273) (U.S. patent 6,184,621 used as translation) for at least the reasons that claim 1 is non-obvious.

Amended claim 7 of the present claimed invention recites a plasma display panel comprising a dielectric layer in which a filler for enhancing reflectance is dispersed, wherein the filler comprises pieces individually having outward appearance of flakes whose front and back faces are oriented in a direction along a surface of the dielectric layer, and the dielectric layer has a dielectric constant ≤ 10 , which Horiuchi et al. fails to teach or suggest. Thus, applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's comment that the specific type and shape of the filler does not solve any of the stated problems, and submit that the present claimed invention is non-obvious.

Since claim 7 is believed to be non-obvious and claims 8-20 depend from claim 7, it is respectfully submitted that claims 8-20 are also non-obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of Horiuchi et al. (JP 10-146273) (U.S. patent 6,184,621 used as translation) for at least the reasons that claim 7 is non-obvious.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: July 31, 2003

By: Darleen J. Stockley
Darleen J. Stockley
Registration No. 34,257

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501